MATTANCHERI TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

116. **Choudhury G. S. Dhara Singh** *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) has the Town Improvement Committee, Mattancheri submitted its proposal;

(*b*) if so, what are the proposals;

(*c*) what are the items to which the Government going to give preference in execution; and why?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of the report is placed on the Council table.

(*c*) Final orders have not been passed on the Committee report which is under consideration of Government.

2. PRESENTATION OF PETITION UNDER S.O. NO. 60 REGARDING THE AZHIKODE INCIDENT

Mr. President: I understand that Mr. Raja has a petition to present before the House.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* I may be allowed, Sir, to present tha petition.

Mr. President: Yes.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Sir, under Standing Order 60 I submit this petition for the consideration of this Hon'ble House. The petition is dealing with the Azhikode incident and on behalf of the Jatha which reached here yesterday, the Captain of the Jatha P. Kesava Menon has submitted the petition. "On behalf of the public I, the next captain of the Jatha pray that the Council may be pleased to press upon the Government the necessity for appointing an incorruptible person or body of persons to conduct an enquiry into the incidents and have the real culprits punished". I present this petition for the consideration of the House.

Secretary to the Legislative Council:

"To

The Members of the Cochin Legislative Council.

Sirs,

Under Standing Order 60 I submit the following petition for the consideration of this Honourable House.

On the 9th Mithunam 1121 a peaceful and disciplined procession was taken out through the roads of Azhicode, by certain popular organisations. This was to protest against the arrest of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the All India States' Peoples' Conference and the President elect of the Indian National Congress.

When the procession reached the gate of Khan Sahib Karikulam Alikunhi, several goondas most of whom were waiting for the arrival of the procession to attack it, in the premises of the Khan Sahib attacked the processionists. Some of them were armed with sticks and knives and many of them with stones. As a result several of the processionists received serious injuries.

It is the firm conviction and belief of the public that the Khan Sahib is responsible directly for this attrocious crime against the processionists.

Immediately after the event various leading public men came to the locality, conducted enquiries and made representations to the Diwan that a public enquiry ought to be conducted. It is reported that the Diwan agreed to have such an enquiry conducted.

No such enquiry has been conducted. To the knowledge of the public only the usual investigation under the Criminal Procedure Code has been conducted.

The Khan Sahib is a rich and influential landlord. He is reported to have very great influence even over highly placed officials in the State. It is well-known that smaller officers dare not do anything against him.

As a result of the investigation a few unimportant men have been arrested and at once released on bail. The Khan Sahib whom the people believe to be guilty is enjoying his freedom. The people believe that the enquiry and investigation have been a sham.

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